REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct the filing date of Serial No. 07/415,354 as noted by the Examiner in the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications." This portion of the specification has further been amended to make reference to the PCT international patent application and the Australian priority application as set forth in the Declaration and Power of Attorney.

Claims 17-30 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 31-57.

It is submitted that these amendments do not constitute new matter, and their entry is requested.

The specification has been amended to set forth the correct filing date of the initial U.S. application as noted by the Examiner. This amendment obviates the objection to the specification, and its withdrawal is requested.

Claims 17-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. New claims 31-52 have been drafted to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 17-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for lack of written description. New claims 31-52 have been drafted to obviate this rejection, i.e., the new claims do not use the objected language. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 17-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McGready (WO 88/07058). The present application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. §371 of international application No. PCT/AU88/00074, filed 16 March 1988, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Australian patent application No. PI 0864, filed on 16 March 1987. The cited McGready reference is the publication of this international application. In view of the Section 371 status of the present application and the claimed priority, it is submitted that McGready is not prior art to the present application. Withdrawal of this application is requested.

Claims 17-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Essex et al. (US 4,743,678), Vander-Mallie (US 4,536,479) and Tunkanak et al. (*J Immunol* **117**, part 1:1664-1667, 1976). In view of the amended claims, it is submitted that this rejection is no longer appropriate.

Specifically, Applicant notes the observations made by the Examiner in relation to the respective prior art cited. Applicant submits, however, that none of the prior art identified by the Examiner teaches the use of an antibody population derived from more than a single host source. In contrast, the Examiner will note that the claims have been amended to emphasize this aspect of the invention. Further, it is emphasized that the amendments have been made to clarify that the method defined is restricted to the HIV etiological agent and that the population of antibodies employed in the method is derived from a human population. The significance of this aspect of the invention is clearly preempted in the prior art discussion found on pages 1-5 of the specification, wherein Applicant identifies that different members of a population, when exposed to an etiological agent (such as, for example, HIV) will generate different populations of antibody. In contrast, each of the prior art documents cited by the Examiner, when considered either individually or in combination, only teach the preparation of anti-idiotypic antibodies following the inoculation of a single member of a particular animal species. It is submitted that none of the publications cited by the Examiner contemplate the pooling of said antibody fractions prior to the conduct of steps (ii), etc. In view of the distinction drawn between the method of the invention and that cited in each of the publications, considered either individually or collectively, Applicant submits that the present invention is not obvious from the cited prior art.

In view of the amended claims and the above remarks, it is submitted that claims 31-52 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Essex et al., Vander-Mallie and Tunkanak et al. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present claims satisfy the requirements of the patent statutes and are patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and early notice of allowance are requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution of the present application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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